

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-10 (canceled)

11. (new) A percussive rock drilling member comprising at least one thread, the thread including thread crests and thread bottoms, the thread crests comprising low alloy steel, and the thread bottoms comprising stainless steel; a flush channel extending through the rock drilling member.

12. (new) The percussive rock drilling member according to claim 11 wherein the portion of the thread crests formed of low alloy steel having a thickness T , and the thread having a depth D , wherein $0.1 < T/D < 1.0$.

13. (new) The percussive rock drilling member according to claim 11 wherein $0.4 < T/D < 0.8$.

14. (new) The percussive rock drilling member according to claim 12, wherein D is in the range of 1-4 m, and T is 102 mm.

15. (new) The percussive rock drilling member according to claim 14 wherein T is substantially 1.5 mm.

16. (new) The percussive rock drilling member according to claim 12 wherein the thread bottom has a first width $W1$, and the thread crest has a second width $W2$, wherein $W1/W2$ is in the range of 0 – 0.9.

17. (new) The percussive rock drilling member according to claim 16 wherein $W1/W2$ is in the range 0.3 – 0.8.

18. (new) The percussive rock drilling member according to claim 11 wherein the stainless steel comprises a composition having a PRE value greater than 10, and the low alloy steel has a hardness greater than 500 Vickers.

19. (new) The percussive rock drilling member according to claim 18 wherein the PRE value is in the range 12-17, and the hardness is in the range 650 – 800 Vickers.

20. (new) The percussive rock drilling member according to claim 18 wherein the low alloy steel comprises:

C = 0.1-0.7 weight percent

Si = 0.1-1 weight percent

Mn = 0.2-2 weight percent

Cr = < 5 weight percent

Ni = <5 weight percent

Mo = <2 weight percent

the remainder comprising Fe and normal impurities.

21. (new) The percussive rock drilling member according to claim 11, comprising a core and a shell, wherein one of the core and shell comprises stainless steel, and the other of the core and the shell comprises low alloy steel.

22. (new) The percussive rock drilling member according to claim 21 wherein the core comprises stainless steel and the shell comprises low alloy steel, the rock drilling member being externally threaded.

23. (new) The percussive rock drilling member according to claim 21 wherein the core comprises low alloy steel and the shell comprises stainless steel, the rock drilling member being internally threaded.

24. (new) The percussive rock drilling member according to claim 1 wherein the at least one thread is provided on a compound component welded on an end of a main portion.

25. (new) A drill rod comprising a main portion and two end members welded to respective ends of the main portion, each end member comprising a thread including thread crests and thread bottoms, the thread crests comprising low alloy steel, and the thread bottoms comprising stainless steel, and a flushing channel extending through the main portion and the end members.

26. (new) The drill rod according to claim 25 wherein the main portion comprises stainless steel.

27. (new) The drill rod according to claim 25 wherein the main portion comprises low alloy steel.

28. (new) A method for manufacturing a percussive rock drilling member comprising the steps of:

- A) providing a shell and a core, one of the shell and the core comprising stainless steel, and the other of the shell and the core comprising low alloy steel;
- B) fitting the core into the shell with close fit to form therewith a blank;
- C) welding the ends of the shell and the core to each other;
- D) extruding the blank to form a compound component; and
- E) machining a thread in the compound component, wherein the thread bottoms comprise stainless steel and the thread crests comprise low alloy steel.

29. (new) The method according to claim 28 further comprising friction welding the compound component to a drill rod.

30. (new) The method according to claim 28 further comprising forming a flushing channel through the member.